

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

June 24, 2003

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FROM: MARCEL TURNER, Director
Human Resources

SUBJECT: CONTRACT WITH THE PARTNERS, AN INCORPORATED LAW FIRM

RECOMMENDATION: Approve contract with The Partners, An Incorporated Law Firm (The Partners) to provide public liability legal defense from June 24, 2003 to June 5, 2004.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: On October 3, 2000, the Board approved the issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for public liability legal defense work. On June 5, 2001, the Board approved three-year contracts with eighteen firms to provide this work at the ongoing rate of \$125 per hour for senior partners, \$105 per hour for associates, and \$60 for paralegals. Lewis, D'Amato, Brisbois & Bisgaard (now Lewis, Brisbois, Bisgaard & Smith LLP) was one of the selected firms. The department has been advised that on June 1, 2003, several of the attorneys in the firm of Lewis, Brisbois, Bisgaard & Smith LLP who handle County public liability cases will be leaving to work for The Partners. A new contract is required since a new name, address and IRS number is required for The Partners. Some of the attorneys remaining at Lewis, Brisbois, Bisgaard & Smith LLP also are handling County public liability cases which necessitates retaining that contract.

This action will enable the attorneys joining The Partners to provide uninterrupted defense work on behalf of the County. The new contract with The Partners will have the same provisions approved for contract number 01-434 with Lewis, Brisbois, Bisgaard & Smith LLP.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: This item has been reviewed by County Counsel (Michael Sachs, Chief Deputy County Counsel) on June 5, 2003 and County Administrative Office (Daniel R. Kopp, Administrative Analyst) on June 13, 2003.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Annual costs for this new contract are estimated at \$50,000. Annual costs for all nineteen firms remains unchanged at an estimated \$1,780,000. Fees for these services will continue to be paid from Risk Management's liability sub funds. No changes in Risk Management's budget are required.

COST REDUCTION REVIEW: The County Administrative Office has reviewed this agenda item, concurs with the department's proposal, and recommends this item. Approval of this item will enable the County to continue utilizing the services of these attorneys to defend new and ongoing public liability cases.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS: All

PRESENTER: Pamela H. Thompson, Risk Manager, 386-8620

Record of Action of the Board of Supervisors

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